

rainbow flag of the LGBTQ community to resist the President's agenda. The entire community will stand together as the mass deportation wave becomes a day-to-day reality in our communities. And the message is clear: if you come for one of us, you have to go through all of us.

My constituents demanded I be a wrench in Trump's cruel agenda, and I, Mr. Speaker, do not intend to dis-appoint them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HEALTH CARE FOR MINERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I met last week with a group of West Virginia coal miners who are worried about their future. They are worried about their pensions and healthcare benefits that will expire soon, benefits that they worked their whole life to earn, benefits the Federal Government promised them more than 70 years ago.

During our meeting at the UMWA Career Center in Beckley, I met Preston Thomas of Raleigh County. He spent 36 years in the mines before retiring in 2010. Preston relies on the healthcare benefits he earned to provide prescription drug coverage for his wife. If this coverage is allowed to expire in April, his wife will no longer have access to the medications she needs.

Mr. Speaker, Preston is asking—I am calling on—Congress to keep the promise we made to him, to his fellow miners, to their wives, to their husbands, to their widows. We must pass legislation I have cosponsored to protect these hard-earned benefits.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and protecting the hardworking miners like Preston. We owe it to all of them to keep our word.

REPUBLICAN ACA REPEAL BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to TrumpCare, the Republican plan to privatize Medicare, penalize working families, and prioritize the wealthy.

The Republican majority is in denial about the tremendous gains of the Affordable Care Act in covering tens of millions of people across this Nation.

In my home State of Washington, Mr. Speaker, because of the Affordable Care Act, the average annual premium increases have dropped from 18.5 percent, before the passage of the ACA, to 6.7 percent in 2017. The growth of indi-

vidual enrollment reached nearly 320,000 people in 2015; and with Medicaid expansion in Washington State, the decline in the uninsured plummeted to 7 percent in 2015, from over 13 percent in 2009. 605,000 Washingtonians also gained coverage through Medicaid expansion.

All of these gains, Mr. Speaker, are in jeopardy as TrumpCare threatens to strip 20 million people, many of whom voted for Mr. Trump, of their health care. Across the Nation, older Americans will be forced to pay premiums five times higher than what others will pay for health care.

Four hundred of the wealthiest families in America will be handed a tax break worth \$7 million a year, all on the backs of working families. According to the Tax Policy Center, under TrumpCare, the top 0.1 percent of earners would receive an average tax cut of \$197,000, while older Americans would face increases of almost \$7,000 each.

Under TrumpCare, many employers will stop providing coverage, letting their employees fend for themselves with a tax credit. Compared to the subsidies that Americans have today, the tax credits will end up being a tax hike.

Not only does TrumpCare impose radical new restrictions on a woman's right to comprehensive health coverage, it defunds Planned Parenthood, robbing women with nowhere else to turn of essential preventative care and affordable contraceptives.

Mr. Speaker, these are sad, sad facts. But the stories from hundreds of my constituents are even more heart-breaking. Lynn told me:

If I were to get a bad illness, it would kill me financially. And the stress alone from having my health insurance taken is causing me health problems already.

Luke wrote to tell me that when his wife needed emergency gall bladder surgery while he was a student, the bills would have been crushing. He said:

Without the ACA, we would have been saddled with nearly \$40,000 in hospital bills, ER, one surgery, and one overnight stay.

Kristy shared:

Without contraceptive care that is covered in the ACA, I would never be able to afford my IUD. I might have an unwanted pregnancy, and I wouldn't be able to afford another child. This means so much to me as a woman, a mother, and as a human. I am able to have power to make decisions about my family, and this means the world to me.

The lessons and stories like this, Mr. Speaker, are what we should be incorporating into our legislative deliberations, not cynical attempts to penalize people for wanting to have basic health insurance coverage for themselves and their families.

What is worse, the Republican majority seems intent on obscuring the real cost of this misguided proposal. Mr. Speaker, the majority deserves this President. They are cut from the same cloth and relying on the power of obfuscating the truth.

Since President Trump is not being forced to be transparent about his taxes or his financial entanglements with foreign interests like Russia, the Republican majority doesn't think that they need to ask the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office to offer the true picture of how many people will be hurt by their bill and how much it will cost the American people. This is simply no way to govern.

At the most fundamental level, health care is a human right and not a luxury, as our Republican colleagues would have us believe; a healthy population is a healthy workforce; a healthy workforce is a healthy economy; and a healthy economy is a healthy nation.

TrumpCare puts all Americans at risk. Let's work together to protect and expand our health care and put this mess behind us.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PATRICK LOWERY COGGINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a young man from my district, Patrick Lowery Coggins. Pat recently passed away at the young age of 27 after a courageous and lifelong battle with Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Despite the challenges he faced, Pat lived a full and inspirational life, graduating from high school and college and then returning home to work in communications for the Syracuse Chiefs AAA baseball team.

I had the distinct honor and privilege of meeting Pat when he and his Central New York United teammates won the National Power Wheelchair Soccer Tournament in 2015. Pat and his teammates were incredible advocates for increased opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

And I might add that I got in one of those power wheelchairs and tried to do what Pat did playing soccer, and it was not easy. So I commend him for his skill in that regard as well.

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Pat was beloved by his family, friends, coworkers, and so many in our community. He made a lasting and positive impact on all who knew and loved him.

In Pat's memory, and for all of those who suffer from rare and incurable diseases, we must continue to invest in research, treatments, and cures.

Rest in peace, Pat.

END HUNGER NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this week, the Food Research & Action Center, known as FRAC, and Feeding

America, in conjunction with the National Child and Adult Care Food Program Forum, hosted their annual fly-in. Over 1,200 hunger advocates from every State came to Washington, D.C., to meet with their local Members of Congress and to emphasize the importance of the Federal antihunger programs in alleviating food insecurity and poverty amongst our most vulnerable constituents.

These advocates delivered powerful messages to Members of Congress: as we consider the FY 2018 budget and appropriations legislation, and as we work to craft a 2018 farm bill, our antihunger safety net must stay intact. That means no block grants or structural changes to SNAP; no funding cuts to SNAP or any other antihunger programs.

These advocates, Mr. Speaker, also delivered paper plates to their Members of Congress containing powerful messages from constituents who rely on antihunger safety net programs.

I would urge all my colleagues to make sure they read these paper plates. These aren't statistics. These are real human beings. These are our constituents, our brothers and sisters.

I would like to read a few of the messages that were sent to me from people in my district.

This is from a client at the Northbridge Food Pantry in Massachusetts: "Without food assistance, I wouldn't have any other source of nourishment. I have many medical issues, and a proper diet is necessary."

This is from, again, another client from the Northbridge Food Pantry: "Food stamps are important to me and my family because I have lung cancer, and it is next to impossible to find a job, to buy food. My husband barely makes enough to pay the bills, that is not counting food."

Also, another client from the Northbridge Food Pantry: "Food stamps is important to me 'cause I don't make any money to support myself, let alone I'm disabled and I only make \$16 for SNAP. I need food to survive and to stay healthy."

This is from a client at Centro Las Americas in Worcester: "For me, they are very important, so that my children have good balance and nutrition."

Also, from Centro Las Americas in Worcester: "Well, for me, they fill a gap because I am a single father who has a child."

This is from a client at the Marie Anne Center in Worcester, Massachusetts: "I think SNAP is important because it helps, because it helps families."

This is from a client at the Amherst Survival Center: "It means there is food every night."

Also, from the Amherst Survival Center: "I thank God for the food pantry because most of my income goes toward bills. The food pantry really relieves the anxiety of not having enough to go around. Thank you."

Also, from the Amherst Survival Center: "I am in bad health. I can't

work. The food pantry really helps my family. Thanks to the food pantry. Thanks Survival Center."

Also, from the Amherst Survival Center: "It means there is food every night."

This is from Loaves and Fishes, a food pantry in Worcester, Massachusetts: "A person has to live."

Also, from Loaves and Fishes: "It is very important that I get the food stamps. Please don't take them away. They help me out a lot."

This is also from Loaves and Fishes: "SNAP helps supplement my disability from cancers, but my benefit level has been cut."

From the Marie Anne Center, a client writes: "It is important to keep food stamps because other poor families don't have money. And the food stamps help them. Also, I think you should keep SNAP because if you take it away, that's basically you saying that other people won't eat."

This is also from the Northbridge Food Pantry: "In my given situation, without the local food banks and SNAP, I would not be able to eat three meals per day."

From a client at Loaves and Fishes: "A person has to live."

Finally, this is from the Amherst Survival Center. A client writes: "Thank you, Amherst Survival Center. You are a saving grace."

Mr. Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues to understand that, in the United States of America, the richest country in the history of the world, we have close to 42 million Americans who are food insecure or hungry. They are our neighbors. They are counting on us in this Congress to do something, not to give them a cold shoulder.

I will, in all frankness, say to my colleagues that we are not doing nearly enough. Hunger is a political condition. We have the resources, we know what to do, but we don't have the political will.

So, rather than cutting these nutrition safety net programs, rather than threatening to block grant SNAP, cut SNAP, or cut other antihunger and nutrition programs, we ought to come together and support them. We ought to dedicate ourselves to ending hunger now. We have a moral obligation to do that.

I urge my colleagues to read the plates that were delivered to their offices and join with me in ending hunger now.

LET'S FIX, NOT FIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, I had the opportunity to gather in Upper Senate Park with thousands of individuals from across the country to demand that Congress "Fix Not Fight" and work together to build a better, safer, and stronger nation.

The No Labels Problem Solvers Conference brought together thousands of citizens from across all 50 States to kick-start a year of action in creating a more united path forward for our country.

Proudly, I have been part of this movement from the beginning. As a member of the Problem Solvers Caucus, I hope we can all come to the table, find common ground, and focus on finding solutions.

Of course, there are some areas where we are never going to agree, and that is okay. Our differences should not divide us. Instead, we must exhibit good governance, good leadership, and serve our constituents in a manner that is worthy of the office we hold. After all, the only way that we will build a better America today and for all generations that follow us is if we come together now. Let's get to work.

SUPPORT STUDENT LOAN DEBT RELIEF FOR FARMERS

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the cornerstones of our rural communities: our American farmers.

These men and women are stewards of all of our land and provide the country with a safe and affordable food supply, but we need to do more to cultivate the next generation of farmers. They face tough odds by the very nature of the business, and there is a critical shortfall of skilled young and beginning farmers and ranchers.

That is why, together with Congressman JOE COURTNEY of Connecticut and Congressman JOHN FASO of New York, we introduced the Young Farmer Success Act. This legislation will provide incentives for those who would like to pursue a future in the agriculture industry by adding farmers to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, which currently offers loan payback assistance for professions such as government service, teaching, and nursing.

Under the program, eligible public service professionals who make 10 years of income-driven student loan payments can have the balance of their loans forgiven.

Farming is an expensive business to enter, in part because of skyrocketing land prices, and beginning farmers often see small profits or even losses in their first years of business.

In 2011, the National Young Farmers Coalition conducted a survey of 1,000 young farmers and found that 78 percent of respondents struggled with a lack of capital.

A 2014 followup survey of 700 young farmers with student loan debt found that the average burden of student loans was \$35,000, and that 53 percent of respondents are currently farming, but have a hard time making their student loan payments; while another 30 percent are interested in farming, but haven't pursued it as a career because their salary as a farmer wouldn't be enough to cover their student loan payments.

Mr. Speaker, food security is national security and it aids the long-